

# THE IBIS.

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## SEVENTH SERIES.

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I.—*An additional List of Birds obtained at Kalaw, Southern Shan States, during April and May, 1896.* By Major G. RIPPON, 7th Burma Infantry.

(Plate I.)

DURING my second visit to Kalaw this year I did a good deal of collecting, but succeeded in obtaining examples of only 34 species of birds in addition to those previously recorded ('Ibis,' 1896, p. 357), making a total of 109 in all. I have included in the present list only those birds which I or my man actually shot and identified. A few obtained last year I did not see again: for instance, *Pica rustica* and *Lioptila melanoleuca*; while, on the other hand, I obtained nearly all those entered in the previous list as "observed by Mr. Oates." As in my former paper, I have not recorded any species procured below 4000 feet above the sea-level.

Towards the end of May the number of young birds at Kalaw is very great. They were frequently brought in as new species by my collector. Among others, *Dicrurus cineraceus* breeds there; young birds just able to fly from tree to tree were brought to me. They were of a uniform dark ashy blue.

Mr. E. W. Oates has been kind enough to look over the specimens I brought down and to settle some cases of

doubtful identification for me. Some of the rarer birds I propose depositing in the British Museum. I was very fortunate in re-discovering *Actinodura ramsayi* and *Sitta magna* after an interval of 20 years, and in procuring the male of the latter for the first time.

1. *POMATORHINUS IMBERBIS*, Salvad.

2. *PYCTORHIS SINENSIS* (Gm.).

A point about this bird which does not appear to have been noticed is that three or four black bristles spring from the upper eyelids. In a freshly-killed bird they are very conspicuous.

3. *ACTINODURA RAMSAYI* (Wald.).

I obtained one specimen of this in 1895, but did not include it in my previous list, as I did not at first identify it, there being no mention in 'Fauna of British India, Birds' (vol. i. p. 202), of the ring of white feathers round the eye, very conspicuous in the freshly-killed bird. This specimen I unfortunately mislaid before I could show it to Mr. Oates in Mandalay. I shot another this year, and last year's bird has now turned up. I have found since that the ring round the eye is mentioned in 'Stray Feathers,' vols. iii. and xi., pp. 404 and 171 respectively. In the description in 'Stray Feathers' (vol. iii. p. 404) it is remarked on as "eyelids white;" but in vol. xi. p. 171, under *A. egertoni*, the conspicuous white eye-ring is mentioned.

The habits of this bird are very like those of *Lioptila castanoptera*; it hops rapidly from branch to branch, frequently uttering its call. The call of *L. castanoptera* is three notes in the minor in a descending scale, preceded by a flourish; that of *A. ramsayi* is the same without the flourish. *Lioptila gracilis*, which I found very common in 1892 above 3500 feet in the North Chin hills, on the road from No. 3 Stockade to Fort White, had a very similar call, but of five notes.

4. *ZOSTEROPS AUREIVENTRIS*, Hume.

It is hard to recognize some of the specimens obtained. Some of them have the green upper plumage of *Z. simplex*,



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

SITTA MAGNA. ♂.

Mintern Bros. imp.

with a tail of 1·5 inch in length and a plentiful mixture of yellow in the lower plumage.

5. *ÆGITHINA TIPHIA* (Linn.).

One specimen.

6. *HEMIXUS TICKELLI* (Blyth).

7. *SITTA MAGNA*. (Plate I.)

*Sitta magna*, Wardlaw-Ramsay, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 677, pl. lxiii. (♀).

I obtained in the same place, but on different days, a male and female of this fine Nuthatch. The female only has been described, but I think that the very great general resemblance to the female of the bird that I ascertained to be a male by dissection is sufficient to identify it.

*Description.*—*Male*. A very broad streak on either side of the head from the nostrils to the shoulders, passing over the eye, black; the space between these streaks light bluish ashy, the feathers with black bases, the black bases showing through very conspicuously on the forehead and less so on the crown; back slaty blue; wings blackish, edged with slaty blue; middle tail-feathers slaty blue, the next two pairs black with a slaty-blue tip, the next two similar, but with a subterminal patch of white, the outermost pair the same, but with a band of white on the outer web; lores, sides of the head, a patch behind the ear-coverts, the chin and throat white, shading into slaty blue on the breast and lower parts; ear-coverts tinged with fulvous; thighs, vent, and under tail-coverts chestnut, the feathers of the last broadly tipped with white; under wing-coverts black, with a white patch at the base of the primaries visible only from below. Total length 7·2 inches; wing 4·6; tail 2·6.

Bill bluish, paler below; legs brown; irides dark brown.

It will be seen that the male resembles the female, differing chiefly in the greater purity and intensity of the colouring and in the slaty-blue colour of the lower parts.

8. *SITTA FRONTALIS*, Horsf.

Only one specimen, a female, obtained. More might have been shot, but I ordered the man who was shooting for me

not to shoot any more small Nuthatches, because he brought in so many *S. neglecta*, which was extremely common there.

9. MEGALURUS PALUSTRIS, Horsf.

10. PERICROCOTUS FRATERCULUS, Swinh.

The young Minivets were just obtaining their adult plumage, and adult birds of all the species were scarce. I got one curious specimen of *P. speciosus* with a great deal of red on one side and pure yellow on the other.

11. CAMPOPHAGA MELANOPTERA (Rüpp.).

12. ORIOLUS TRAILLI (Vig.).

One specimen obtained. *O. tenuirostris* was the common Oriole and was very plentiful. It was one of the birds which, later on, I ordered my man not to shoot.

13. ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS (Linn.).

Brought in by my collector. I did not myself see it.

14. CYORNIS MELANOLEUCUS (Hodgs.).

15. CYORNIS UNICOLOR, Blyth.

16. CYORNIS RUBECULOIDES (Vig.).

17. CYORNIS TICKELLI, Blyth.

All these Flycatchers appeared to be breeding or about to do so.

18. CULICICAPA CEYLONENSIS (Swains.).

Common.

19. MERULA PROTOMELÆNA (Cab.).

I obtained one female and one nearly full-grown young bird of this species. The tail-feathers are slightly mucronate.

20. HIRUNDO STRIOLATA, Temm.

21. ANTHUS STRIOLATUS, Blyth.

22. ARACHNECHTHRA ASIATICA (Lath.).

Common.

23. PSARISOMUS DALHOUSIÆ (Jameson).

24. CHRYSOCOLAPTES GUTTICRISTATUS (Tickell).

25. *MEROPS VIRIDIS*, Linn.

The first bird of this species seen by me at Kalaw I shot on the 22nd May. Two days later I saw about a dozen. I was then leaving.

26. *UPUPA INDICA*, Reich.

One specimen.

27. *CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS*, Horsf.

Very common; it may be heard calling at any time during the night.

28. *HIEROCOCCYX SPARVERIOIDES* (Vig.).

29. *RHOPODYTES TRISTIS* (Less.).

30. *PALÆORNIS TORQUATUS* (Bodd.).

31. *PALÆORNIS FINSCHI*, Hume.

32. *MILVUS GOVINDA*, Sykes.

I saw one Vulture, but did not get a specimen of it.

33. *TURTUR TIGRINUS* (Temm. & Knip).

34. *PHASIANUS HUMLE*, Hume.

I obtained only one male and one female of this handsome Pheasant. The female was shot after a long run up the side of a hill. When first seen she was picking about in a small valley between two pine-clad slopes. The male was got more easily in a rocky valley with a good deal of undergrowth, chiefly bamboo. A man was sent round towards the head of the valley with orders to walk slowly down towards me. The Pheasant, which had been seen to go into a thick clump, presently walked out and was immediately shot. The skins of both were preserved.

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II.—*On the new Palearctic Goose Anser neglectus*\*. By P. SUSHKIN, Keeper of the Zoological Collection of the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow.

(Plate II.)

AMONGST the skins of birds which I brought with me in 1891 from the government of Ufa there are nine specimens

\* See Bull. B. O. C. 1895, v. p. vi.